

Proposition One and Murray City

Mayor Ted Eyre

With the fall colors, leaves dropping and cooler temperatures, we are getting ready for winter that seems to be just around the corner. This time of year also brings local elections and decision-making about who will represent us or our City in the near future. With the new option for 'vote by mail' coming to Murray, a different dimension has been added to this civic responsibility. We will be interested to see what voter turnout looks like with this new option to cast ballots. Three of the City Council seats are up for consideration, along with Proposition One.

I wanted to focus this article on what Proposition One is and how it will impact our City. Regardless of where each of us live, we take local roads to get to work. Some of us take those streets to get to mass transit options and then arrive that way. Others of us drive from various locations, but getting away from our homes and neighborhoods means we take local roads for at least a portion of our journey. It has long been a challenge for cities to keep local roads maintained, due to the many miles they are responsible for and the lack of funding options. In the last Legislative Session, after concerted effort, cities were given the option to ask our citizens for a small sales tax increase to help with this problem. Seventeen counties around the state have chosen to put this opportunity before the voters of their jurisdictions. Salt Lake County has also agreed to have this included in the upcoming election. If this initiative is approved, cities will have a new revenue source for road repairs. We are in favor of that, due to the many projects that we have to get done. Here are a few of the projects it would help fund over the next 2 years:

- Chevy Chase & Wesley Area, rebuild/overlay
- 120 W, reconstruction
- 150 W, reconstruction
- Nena Way, 5757 S, rebuild
- Sam Oliver St, rebuild
- 5600 S, 5300 S, overlay
- Auburn, rebuild
- 6220 S between 440 E and Fashion Blvd, rebuild
- Winchester St, sidewalk, curb & gutter project
- Joma, Westridge, 6410 S, rebuild
- Sealer, East - rejuvenate, West - slurry
- Sidewalk & ADA Ramps
- Vine Street - 900 East to 1300 East Power Relocation
- Traffic Signals - Pedestrian & Safety Improvements
- Radar Speed Signs

The work that has been done to get this initiative to the ballot has been extreme. If the option fails, it leaves cities to fund these types of challenging projects with general funds, leaving fewer options for improving benefits for employees. Please remember to cast your vote.